

Message to Constituents

U.S. Congressman Elijah E. Cummings

Representing the 7th U.S. Congressional District of Maryland

June 30, 2004
<http://www.house.gov/cummings>

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Dear Constituent:

It is both a privilege and an honor to represent you in the United States Congress. While serving you, I will continue further outreach efforts to inform you of legislative action in Congress. I welcome your advice. Government “by the people” is the cornerstone of my legislative philosophy.

To better serve you closer to home, I invite you to visit or contact one of my district offices, which I have listed on the following pages. In Howard County, my staff and I make regular outreach visits at various community centers. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Elijah E. Cummings

Congressman Cummings Votes for \$32 Billion in Homeland Security Funds

Congressman Cummings recently voted for the passage of the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, H.R. 4567, that provides \$32 billion in funds to help secure U.S. borders from possible terrorist attacks.

“After hearing the chilling tapes from the flight recorders of hijacked September 11th airplanes earlier this month, we were reminded of how important it is to provide for our homeland security in order to avert any future terrorist attacks,” Congressman Cummings said.

Some key funding initiatives in the bill include:

\$5 billion for Customs and Border Protection: This program would help fund the Container Security Initiative and surveillance technology at U.S. Ports.

“This is especially important to our area since millions of containers pass through the Port of Baltimore,” Congressman Cummings said.

\$3.75 billion for the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, that would help Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Howard County fund fire, police and medical professionals who would respond to a potential terrorist attack;

\$ 7.5 billion for the Coast Guard;

\$ 875 million to improve data sharing and cybersecurity activities;

\$ 1 billion to research and develop systems to detect weapons of mass destruction;

Currently, the bill is pending in the Senate-House Conference Committee that will reconcile the difference between the two bills.

“We must not allow a tragedy like the Sept. 11th terrorists attacks to happen again,” Congressman Cummings said.

Further information on Maryland’s share of federal homeland security funds will be available following the Conference Report on this bill. Last year, Maryland received \$57.42 million in formula funds through the Homeland Security Appropriations.

\$16 Million in Federal Grants to the 7th District

Congressman Cummings announced more than \$16 million in federal grants that will benefit residents of Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Howard County. In securing these grants, Congressman Cummings worked with U.S. Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, as well as Congressmen Benjamin L. Cardin and C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger:

\$2.1 million from the Department of Justice Grant to stop violence against women: The Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention has received \$2,177,000 to encourage the implementation of victim-centered law enforcement, prosecution and court strategies. The funds are granted by the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grants Program under the U.S. Department of Justice. The funds will be distributed to non-profit organizations that organize programs focused on preventing violence against women.

\$2 million for the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS): The DPSCE will receive \$2,058,000 that will go towards victims compensation funds.

\$6.6 million from the Crime Victims Fund: The grant, provided through the U.S. Department of Justice, provides \$6,635,000 to the State of Maryland, which in turn will award the monies to various community-based organizations that provide direct services to crime victims.

\$4.2 million for Head Start: The YMCA of Central Maryland, which administers the Head Start pre-school program for low-income children, has received a \$4,202,209 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will help serve 572 preschoolers, that attend 10 Head Start centers throughout Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

\$1.3 million for HIV/AIDS Treatment: This grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Budget will provide \$1,371,531 to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for its ongoing efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate information about those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Congressman Cummings Hosts White House Drug Czar During Baltimore Visit

On Friday, June 18, Congressman Cummings met with John Walters, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy [ONDCP], also known as the "Drug Czar," to discuss their joint efforts in fighting illegal drug abuse in Maryland.

Congressman Cummings welcomed Walters to Baltimore as part of a 25-City national tour that highlights the success of integrated federal, state and local anti-drug initiatives. During the visit, Congressman Cummings showed Walters the Gaudenzia Drug Treatment facility in Baltimore and facilitated meetings with public safety officials and drug treatment counselors.

Congressman Cummings' outreach efforts to ONDCP have resulted in substantial contributions to drug treatment programs. In FY 2001-2002, for example, federal funding for Baltimore City programs exceeded \$38 million.

"John Walters is demonstrating solid leadership in a very difficult job," the Congressman observed. "I appreciate his commitment to helping us create a safer, healthier community."

Acknowledging that the Baltimore region continues to face one of the most serious drug problems in the country, Walters, Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley and Congressman Cummings nevertheless stressed the positive gains that have been achieved in both public safety and the availability of drug treatment.

"Baltimore is fighting back," Congressman Cummings observed, "and our integrated strategy against illegal drugs is expanding our potential for success. We are committed to winning this struggle."

President Bush Signs Congressman Cummings' Great Blacks in Wax Museum Bill

On June 22, President Bush signed into law Congressman Cummings' legislation entitled the *National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2003*, H.R. 2424/S. 1233. Maryland's U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski sponsored the companion legislation in the Senate.

"I commend Senator Mikulski for joining me in bringing national attention and assistance to the Museum."

The legislation officially authorizes Baltimore's Great Blacks in Wax Museum as the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center. The Act also makes it possible for the Museum to receive \$5 million in federal funds to expand its educational programs. The Museum indicated intentions to hold a renaming ceremony in accordance with the enactment of the legislation at a later date.

The Great Blacks in Wax Museum was founded in the early 1980's by Dr. Joanne Martin and her late husband, Dr. Elmer

Martin. The Martins established the Museum to bring recognition to African Americans who have served our nation with distinction, but are not all well known by the public. Currently, the Museum houses 200 wax figures in the museum depicting outstanding individuals such as Harriet Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune and former Congressmen Parren Mitchell.

“The museum is more than a display of great Americans,” Congressman Cummings said. “Not only is the museum located in an empowerment zone, it also serves as a safe-haven for at-risk youth and offers opportunities for young people in the community to take part in employment, internships, and volunteer programs.”

Currently, the Museum is in the process of expanding, Congressman Cummings noted. The expansion involves designing exhibits that portray African American military veterans, African American judges and prominent attorneys, and African Americans in senior civilian Executive Branch positions. The expansion also involves the completion of the Justice Learning Center which will offer state-of-the art facilities and resources to educate the public, especially at-risk youth, about the role of African Americans in the nation's judicial system.

So far, the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore have contributed over \$5 million toward this expansion project. Now, this legislation authorizes a federal share of \$5 million for the project.

“The National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2003 will help the Museum continue its mission to bring long overdue recognition to African Americans who have served our nation with distinction, but whose names, faces, and records of achievements are not well known by the public,” Congressman Cummings said.

Congressman Cummings Facilitates Greyhound Relocation to Southwest

Congressman Cummings helped facilitate the relocation of Greyhound Lines Inc., from 210 East Fayette Street on the west side of Baltimore to its new location at 2110 Haines Street in the Carroll Camden Industrial Park in southwest Baltimore. The new location opened on Thursday, June 24, 2004.

The Haines Street facility will be Greyhound's temporary home for approximately three years. However, the Haines Street location is adjacent to Greyhound's new permanent location planned for 1501 Russell Street in the Warner Street corridor.

The Warner Street corridor is currently undergoing a major revitalization effort. By relocating to this area, Greyhound will retain 45 jobs, generate \$20,000 annually in real estate and personal property taxes, and serve more than one million users of Greyhound.

“The new location will help provide Maryland residents a link between intercity and local public transportation,” Congressman Cummings said. “It will also provide an alternative transportation mode at a time when gas prices are escalating.”

In the 1998 federal legislation entitled, “*Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century*, (TEA-21)” Congressman secured approximately \$6 million towards the relocation of the bus facility. In the reauthorization of this bill, the *Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users* (TEA-LU), Congressman Cummings has requested an additional \$5 million for Greyhound's permanent move to the Russell Street location.

Congressman Cummings currently serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Congressman Cummings Announces \$100 Million in Design Projects

On June 17, 2004 Congressman Cummings participated in the second annual Design and Construction Presentation Symposium held by the Baltimore City Department of Transportation. The presentation introduced over \$100 million in design and construction projects available with Baltimore City this year. More than 100 contractors throughout Maryland attended the event held at the Morgan State University School of Engineering Auditorium.

Alfred Foxx, Director of the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, discussed plans to increase mobility and accessibility throughout the city's roads, streets, and highways.

"Our goal is to create and sustain a comprehensive transportation system," Mr. Foxx advised. The \$100 million project is the result of a capital improvement program that has developed for several years and will help the city improve its transportation system.

Congressman Cummings, who is a member of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, was instrumental in helping the city obtain federal funds for the program.

"Baltimore is on the move," Congressman Cummings said. "We must work to implement the most effective transportation system so that our city can become all that it is meant to be."

Many of the construction and design projects consist of refurbishing and enhancing highly frequented roadways in Baltimore City. They include the reconstruction of alleys citywide, and the resurfacing of local roads such as Monument Street and Calvert Street. One projects calls for inspection services to approximately 300 bridges throughout the city.

Baltimore City is working with small and minority owned contractors to ensure their participation in future transportation projects. Through the Local Contractor Development Program, entrepreneurs can receive assistance with economic development to fully prepare them for the procurement process. Many of the construction projects begin July 2004.

Congressman Cummings's District Offices

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**754 Frederick Road
Catonsville, Maryland 21228**
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Howard County Outreach Centers

First Monday of the Month:
Glenwood Library, 2350 Route 97
Cooksville, MD 21723
Hours: 4:00PM - 6:00PM or by appointment

Second Monday of the Month:
Howard County Central Library
10375 Little Patuxent Pkwy.
Columbia, MD 21044
Hours: 4:00PM - 6:00PM or by appointment

Second Wednesday of the Month:
Savage Library, 9525 Durness Lane
Laurel, MD 20723
Hours: 4:00PM - 6:00PM or by appointment

Third Monday of the Month:
Florence Bain Senior Center
5470 Ruth Keeton Way
Columbia, MD 21044
Hours: 9:00AM - 11 AM or by appointment

Fourth Monday of the Month:
Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Hours: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM or by appointment